Jack Ruby writes name in history books with bullets as he aims at Lee Harvey Oswald (left) and mortally wounds him.

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To the End, Ruby Denies It Was Plot

Dallas, Tex., Jan. 3 (AP) — Jack Ruby, the volatile strip joint boss who yearned for "class" but found instead notoriety as the killer of President Kennedy's assassin, died today — ravaged by cancer and finally killed by a blood clot.

He insisted until the end that he was part of no plot, that he acted alone, that an accident of timing and a surge of blinding passion caused him to shoot Lee Harvey Oswald.

A sawed-off, pudgy tough from Chicago's South Side, Ruby died after more than three years in jail—and only a month or so short of a second trial, ordered last November by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

Because of his death, District Attorney Henry Wade said he would dismiss the murder charge against him.

"Of course Jack died not a convicted man," said his Dallas attorney, Phil Burleson.

Ruby had been convicted of murdering Oswald and given a death sentence in his first trial in Dallas in March, 1964.

His body will be sent to Chicago for funeral services.

Cancer Was "Extensive"

Dr. Eugene Frenkel said an autopsy showed the immediate cause of death was a blood clot that broke loose in Ruby's right leg and coursed into a lung.

The autopsy also showed extensive cancer "in both of his lungs, in the lymph nodes and through the liver." Earlier, doctors had said Ruby's pancreas also was cancerous.

Doctors said Ruby's steadily weakening condition and loss of a pound a day for the past two weeks prompted them to summon his family to the hospital over the New Year's weekend.

20 at Bedside

Today nearly 20 specialists from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School and Parkland Hospital were at his bedside, giving closed heart massage and oxygen—but the blood clot was more than they could overcome.

One witness of the autopsy estimated the clot stretched from Ruby's ankle to his pelvis, plugging up the entire artery before it broke free and lodged in his lung.

A lawyer, Elmer Gertz of Chicago, said Ruby looked 80 years old in his last days. He was 55.

He Died Peacefully

His sister, Mrs. Eva Grant, said he died peacefully.

Ruby stepped from a crowd of newsmen and officers, jabbed a snubnose .32 caliber revolver into Oswald's abdomen and killed him with one shot on Nov. 24, 1963, two days after Oswald assassinated President Kennedy.

Ruby shot Oswald as the accused assassin was being led through the basement of the Dallas City Jail for transfer to the County Jail.

Oswald died in Parkland Hos-

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History in 3 Paragraphs

Dallas, Tex., Jan. 3 (AP)—Here are texts of the momentous bulletins issued from Parkland Hospital on the deaths of the three principal figures in the John F. Kennedy assassination:

"President Kennedy died today at 1 P.M. at Parkland Hospital." (From Malcolm Kilduff, Presidential press aid from Trauma Room 1, Nov. 22, 1963.)

"Lee Harvey Oswald died in surgery at 1:38 P.M. today at Parkland Hospital." (From the hospital on Nov. 24, 1963).

"Jack Ruby expired at 10:30 this morning at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas." (From the hospital today).

(Associated Press Wirefotos)

Jack Ruby during court hearing in Dallas in February in February, 1964.

To the End, Ruby Denies Plot

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pital, the city-county hospital where President Kennedy had been pronounced dead two days earlier.

Ruby was taken to the County Jail and had remained there until he, too, died at Parkland at 11:30 A.M. (New York time).

Interviewed by Warren

Chief Justice Earl Warren personally interviewed Ruby as chairman of the commission which investigated the assassination.

Ruby insisted there was no conspiracy. He said he killed Oswald to spare Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy the anguish of having to come to Dallas to testify. At other times, he said he killed Oswald "to show the world that Jews have guts."

Ruby denied knowing Oswald and denied knowing Dallas policeman J. D. Tippit, whom Oswald also was charged with shooting to death on an Oak Cliff street soon after the assassination.

Requested Lie Test

One of his last requests in the hospital was for a lie detector test which he hoped would prove once and for all that there was no conspiracy. But polygraph experts and doctors said the advanced state of his cancer and the drugs used for treating it would make such a test meaningless.

Ruby was taken to the hospital on Dec. 9 after jail doctors had treated him for about three weeks for a severe cold.

The hospital announced an admission diagnosis of penumonia and listed Ruby in serious condition. Some 24 hours later, doctors said he had cancer. Extensive examination showed that the malignant cells had invaded his pancreas, lungs and lymph glands—and was so widespread that its source could not be determined.

"Acted as Automaton"

In his first trial, defense attorney Melvin Belli introduced voluminous testimony by psychologists and psychiatrists and electric tracing of Ruby's brain waves—all intended to prove that Ruby suffered from a rare ailment known as psychomotor epilepsy, that brief attacks could be brought on by overpowering emotion and that in these spells he acted as if he were funtioning rationally but actually was in a fugue state or blackout—behaving as an automaton.

The defense contended it was in such a blacked-out state that Ruby killed Oswald.

The prosecution presented psychiatrists who contended that Ruby knew exactly what he was doing and what it meant.

His Own Bouncer

At the time of the shooting, Ruby was 52, a squat, husky man who acted as his own bouncer and might unpredictably throw a patron out of his strip joint for looking "at the girls wrong," or might, like a Damon Runyon character, turn around and "give you the shirt off his back."

He usually carried a pistol, friends said, probably because he also carried large sums of money. But nobody had ever known him to use the pistol—until he killed Oswald with it before a nationwide TV audience.

Ruby's checkered life began March 25, 1911, in the Maxwell St. ghetto of Chicago. He was the sixth of nine children born to an immigrant Polish carpenter and his wife.

Named Jake Rubenstein by his parents, Joseph and Fannie Rubenstein, he spent much of his childhood fighting the tough Italian boys from up the street. His sister, Eva (now Mrs. Eva Grant of Dallas), nicknamed him Sparky, and the tag stuck.

High School Dropout

Ruby's parents separated in 1923 and he was placed in a foster home until he was 13.

Ruby dropped out of high school at 16, and fell into a variety of odd jobs, from scalping tickets for sporting events to vending pennants and the like. He held a variety of jobs in Chicago and San Francisco until he was drafted in 1939.

He was trained as an Army Air Force mechanic, got a "very satisfactory" rating, and was mustered out in 1946 without having left the country.

Man Who Wanted Class

Eva Grant asked him to join her in Dallas, and he did in 1947. They opened two night clubs and Ruby devoted most of his time to the downtown strip joint called the Carousel, which he managed until it was closed after the assassination.

He legally changed his name from Jake Rubenstein to Jack Leon Ruby in 1948. He was soon known in Dallas as a man who wanted class. He remained a bachelor.